

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2003, which has a shortened statutory period for response set to expire July 3, 2003. A two-month extension, to expire September 3, 2003, is requested in a petition filed herewith.

Claims

Claims 1-23 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-23 are rejected over prior art. Claims 1, 3, 11-13, 16, and 19-21 are amended. Claims 2, 4-10, 14-15, 17-18, and 22-23 remain as filed. Reconsideration is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori et al. (US 5,868,485).

On September 2, 2003, the Examiner and Applicant's Attorney participated in a telephone interview. During the interview, differences between the Fujimori et al. reference and Applicant's invention were discussed. The discussion focused primarily on the structure and location of the stress relief recess(es), and possible language to more clearly define those features. Agreement was reached that the amendment to Claim 1 made herein will overcome the rejections over Fujimori et al.. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 3, 9-14, 16, 17, 19, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fujimori et al.. Claims 4-7, 15, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fujimori in view of Miles et al. (5,515,188).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments to the independent claims made herein obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103, because the claims are now distinguished from the primary reference. However, for at least the reasons set forth in Applicant's prior response, Applicant does not concede the propriety of the rejections. Basically, Applicant's position is that it is improper to characterize engagement grooves 52c as stress relief apertures, because there is no indication that any stress whatsoever is exerted on frame 52.

Claims 1-11:

As indicated above, agreement was reached that amendments to Claim 1 made herein distinguish Fujimori et al.. Claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1, and are therefore distinguished for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claims 12-18:

As amended herein, Claim 12 recites (in part): "said stress relief recess being disposed a distance not greater than one-fourth of the width of said main body from said mounting hole." Although this newly added language was not discussed in the interview, Applicant believes that the language further clarifies the proximity between the stress relief recess and the mounting hole. Claims 13-18 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 12, and are therefore distinguished from the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as Claim 12.

Claims 19-23:

As amended herein, Claim 19 recites (in part): "a recess formed in a rear surface of the frame for accepting the imaging device" and "at least one stress relief recess formed in a front surface of the frame." The cited prior art does not teach or suggest this combination of limitations. Claims 20-23 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 19, and are therefore distinguished from the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as Claim 19.

For the above reasons Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-23 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,307,603.

Applicant believes that the amendments made herein obviate the double patenting rejection of Claims 1-23.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner undertake any action other than allowance of Claims 1-23, or if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's attorney at (269) 279-8820.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/3/03

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(A))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 9/3/03

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A display device assembly, comprising:
an imager device affixed to a substrate; and
a mounting border adapted for accepting the substrate, the mounting border having at least one corner and at least one stress relief recess disposed between said corner and the midpoint of an edge adjacent said corner.
2. (original) The display device assembly of claim 1, wherein:
said mounting border includes a plurality of mounting screw apertures.
3. (currently amended) The display device of claim 2, wherein:
the quantity of said mounting screw apertures is no more than two.
4. (original) The display device assembly of claim 1, wherein:
the substrate is affixed to the mounting border by an adhesive.
5. (original) The display device of claim 4, wherein:
said adhesive is a compliant adhesive.
6. (original) The display device assembly of claim 1, and further including:
an aperture mask affixed to the mounting border.
7. (original) The display device assembly of claim 6, wherein:
the aperture mask is affixed to the mounting border with an adhesive.
8. (original) The display device assembly of claim 1, and further including:
a flexible cable and connector assembly affixed to the substrate.

9. (original) The display device assembly of claim 1, wherein:
the mounting border is generally rectangular in shape;
the mounting border includes at least one mounting screw hole; and
the mounting screw hole is isolated from a main body of the mounting border by at least one of the stress relief recesses.
10. (original) The display device assembly of Claim 9, wherein the mounting screw hole is disposed within the rectangular perimeter of said mounting border.
11. (currently amended) The display device assembly of claim 1, wherein:
said stress relief recess is positioned immediately adjacent to a mounting screw aperture.
12. (currently amended) A mounting frame for mounting an imager subassembly, comprising:
a main body adapted for accepting the imager subassembly;
at least one mounting hole adapted for securing the mounting frame therethrough; and
a stress relief recess for at least partially isolating the main body from the mounting hole,
said stress relief recess being disposed a distance not greater than one-fourth of the width of said main body from said mounting hole.
13. (currently amended) The mounting frame of claim 12, wherein:
the mounting frame includes no more than two mounting holes and no more than two stress relief recesses.
14. (original) The mounting frame of claim 13, wherein:
said mounting frame is shaped as a polygon; and
said two mounting holes and said two stress relief recesses lie within the perimeter of said polygon.
15. (original) The mounting frame of claim 12, wherein:
the imager subassembly is affixed to the mounting frame using an adhesive.

16. (currently amended) The mounting frame of claim 12, wherein:
the stress relief recess is located immediately adjacent to a mounting screw hole.
17. (original) The mounting frame of claim 12, wherein:
the mounting frame has two mounting screw holes and two stress relief apertures.
18. (original) The mounting frame of claim 12, wherein:
the mounting frame has at least one land for accepting adhesive for securing the imager subassembly thereto.
19. (currently amended) A mounting device for accepting an imaging device, comprising:
a frame ~~adapted~~ having a recess formed in a rear surface of the frame for accepting the ~~imager~~ imaging device;
~~at least one land on the frame for affixing the imager device thereto with an adhesive;~~
at least one stress relief recess formed in a front surface of the frame; and
at least one screw hole ~~in~~ through the frame.
20. (currently amended) The mounting device of claim 19, and further including:
an image mask affixed to the frame in a mask receiving recess formed in the front surface of the frame.
21. (currently amended) The mounting device of claim 19, wherein:
the mask receiving recess defines an alignment post over which the image mask is positioned; and
the image mask is affixed to the frame with an adhesive.
22. (original) The mounting device of claim 19, wherein:
the quantity of screw holes is two;
the quantity of stress relief recesses is two; and
each of the stress relief recesses is positioned generally adjacent to one of the screw holes.

23. (original) The mounting device of Claim 20, wherein:
- said frame is shaped as a polygon; and
 - said screw holes and said stress relief recesses lie within the perimeter of said polygon.